

# NEWS RELEASE

# THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

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## Libertarians have a dream: Abolish government's racial categories

WASHINGTON, DC — Is your racial classification government approved?

If not, don't worry — federal bureaucrats are hard at work adding new categories to the "official" list of federally recognized races.

"Instead of working to end racism, federal bureaucrats are planning to increase their list of government-recognized racial classifications to further divide this nation on racial grounds," warned Libertarian Party Chairman Steve Dasbach.

America's official racial categories were created by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in 1977. Currently there are five government-approved racial classifications: white, black, American Indian/Eskimo, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic.

"These categories are eerily similar to the four racial categories used by the government of South Africa during Apartheid — white, black, colored, and Indian," said Dasbach. "And just like in South Africa, Americans can lose the chance to attend the college of their choice or even get fired from their job, depending on their racial classification."

For three years, the OMB has been weighing proposals to recognize more racial classifications — including Hawaiian, multiracial, Middle Easterner, Arab American, six different kinds of Latino, "other," Creole, and Germanic.

"Various ethnic groups are lobbying to have their category added to the official list of races — because they know they'll hit the financial jackpot if they become a protected class under anti-discrimination laws," said Dasbach.

For example, federal agencies use the racial data to arrange low-interest loans, to enforce quotas for college admissions — even to decide whom to hire and fire.

"Such racially based policies are one of the reasons why Americans have become more racially divided," said Dasbach. "After all, how can politicians preach the virtues of non-discrimination when they use the power of government to enforce discrimination?"

And now, said Dasbach, federal bureaucrats are planning to deal with the acrimony that their policies have caused by adding *more* racial classifications.

"But this will move us farther from the harmonious society that most Americans want," he said. "Dr. Martin Luther King dreamed of the day when Americans would judge a man by the content of his character, rather than the color of his skin. The last thing Dr. King would have wanted is for Americans to be judged by the *federally categorized* color of their skin."

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